

MILNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of Milnthorpe Parish Council scheduled for 20 April 2020 was unable to be held due to the coronavirus (Corvid-19) lockdown, although the agenda had been sent out in the usual way. In place of a face-to-face meeting, members were asked to email the Clerk with their comments on all agenda items. These minutes are a record of those comments, together with the noting of matters that would have been raised by the Clerk had a meeting been held.

Email responses from: Cllrs Peter Capasso (Chair), Alan Baverstock, Barbara Adair, Roger Bingham, Peter Hill, Steven Hurst, Clare Lachmann, Jen Scroggum & Jim Robson. Also from C Cllr Pete McSweeney.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – none.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2020** - had been circulated by email and were **APPROVED**,
3. **Announcements by the Chair** – Cllr Capasso offered his congratulations to Cllr Bingham on achieving forty years' unbroken service as a member of Milnthorpe Parish Council, with only one meeting missed through illness.
4. **Declaration of interest by members in respect of items on this agenda** – none.
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 9th March 2020.**
 - 5.1 **Milnthorpe public toilets (5.1)** – water leak in June/July 2019 found to be linked to water heater, but Healthmatic now in partial Corvid-19 lockdown so little progress in getting agreement for suitable compensation for MPC's excessive water costs in that period. SLDC 2020/21 grant of £7,500 now received.
 - 5.2 **CCTV coverage for Milnthorpe (5.2)** – grants received from PCC (£3K) and SLDC (£2.5K) towards eventual total cost. Ongoing.
 - 5.3 **Planter for The Square (5.3)** – Highways now have all information needed and their agreement document awaited.
 - 5.4 **MPC's smiley SIDs relocation (5.4)** – no further progress. Should MPC press on with obtaining the necessary permit for relocation as and when activity is resumed?
 - 5.5 **Market Cross cleaning (5.5)** – now postponed until after lockdown.
 - 5.6 **Market Square Improvement Plan (5.8)** – white lining complete. Some items may need to be reviewed due to continued reduction in market income and consequent budget viability questions. 'Disabled' signs also to be refreshed.
 - 5.7 **Milnthorpe Local Plan Review (5.9)** – includes employment sites as well as housing. Broadly – how do we visualise the Milnthorpe of the future?
 - 5.8 **Clerk's retirement (7.1)** – Paul Blackburn has now been appointed as the Clerk's replacement and began work on 1 April 2020. He will take over full responsibility either on 1 May or 1 June 2020, when the present Clerk will retire. Handover complicated by self-isolation restrictions.
6. **Public Participation:**
 - 6.1 **Police Report** – no report being produced currently.
 - 6.2/3 **County & District Councils** – regular CCC Corvid-19 updates being issued and passed to parish councils (and thence to parish council members). Also new bus timetables have been drawn up and are under constant review. Essential services (such as NHS, police and Fire & Rescue) are being prioritised. Non-essential CCC services have been suspended and staff reassigned to Corvid-19-related duties. SLDC are also focussing on providing basic services. Corvid-19 support groups are being set up, including in Milnthorpe. SLDC and PCC elections, due in 2020, now postponed until 2021, along with CCC elections, so all existing members will serve for a further year. SLDC members' allowances to be used for Corvid-19 support wherever possible. Services generally being concentrated on providing essential support for vulnerable residents and local businesses, so the public's use of other services should as far as possible be restricted to important matters.
 - 6.4 **Electors** – none.
- 7.0 **New matters for consideration:**
 - 7.1 **Ackenthaite pony field** – the vacant tenancy has been advertised and a useful number of responses received. MPC's decision on who should be the next tenant is due imminently.

8. Planning matters:

8.1 Applications under consideration by MPC, and SLDC decisions

April 2020 meeting

Type A applications – SLDC response deadline precedes next PC meeting – Clerk to respond. (Members to email Clerk ASAP & before deadline)

SLDC ref	Address	Applicant	Development	Deadline	MPC Response
SL/2020/0197	32 Park Road		Two-storey side extension	14/04/20	No objection

Type B applications – SLDC deadline falls after next PC meeting – Members to discuss at mtg.

CCC 5/20/9002 5/20/9003	Sandside Quarry		Change of use for temporary storage & crushing of road planings + extension of period of operations to 30/06/2029	29/04/29	Objections.
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Decisions received from SLDC

SLDC decision

SL/2019/0865	Houghtons		Demolition of ex-commercial garage & erection of 4 dwellings	Refused
SL/2019/1006	Milnthorpe Methodist Ch.		Various changes to layout etc	Approved with conditions
SL/2020/0017	5 Bela Avenue		Single-storey extension	Approved with conditions
SL/2020/0070	1 Firs Road		Proposed side extension	Approved with conditions

(More planning information available on SLDC website – southlakeland.gov.uk)

8.2 Related matters & correspondence: none.

9 Finance:

MPC – FINANCIAL REPORT

MONTH – MARCH 2020

MEETING – 20th Apl. 2020

9.1 Report on bank receipts, bank payments (for approval) & bank balances.

Date	Transaction	Payee/er	Detail		Current a/c	Reserve Funds
					£	£
01/03/20	Opening balances					22,023.21
31/03/20	Receipts:	Market	Rents collected March	375.40		
		PCC	CCTV camera grant	3,000.00		
		SLDC	RA locality allice for 2019/20	1,000.00		
					4,375.40	
		HSBC	Bank interest to ?			10.98
	Payments:					
	876 DD	UKFuels	Equip fuel	1.50		
			VAT	.30		
					1.80	
	877 DD	Eon	Market elec P3	7.78		
			VAT	.39		
					8.17	
	878 124	Healthmatic	Toilets mtce	500.00		
			VAT	100.00		
					600.00	
	879 125	Water Plus	Market water (12mths)	147.28		
	880 126	Water Plus	Toilets water	88.14		
	881 127	Athena	Payroll services 2019/20	250.00		
	882 128	ChristTK	Meeting room hire	75.00		
	883 129	Hurst	White lining Square	400.00		
			VAT	80.00		
					480.00	
	884 130-135	Payroll	March 2020	2,203.69		
	885 136	Scargill	Postage/staty Feb/Mar	44.42		
			VAT	7.50		
					51.92	
	886 137	Atkinsons	Gritting & grit store	475.75		
			VAT	95.15		
					570.90	
	Total payments in month				-4,476.90	
31/03/20	Closing balances				20,316.72	22,034.19
31/03/20	Total funds all accounts					£42,350.91

Resolved – that the above payments be approved.

9.2 Any other financial matters – MPC annual accounts 2019/20 – circulated by email - **APPROVED**.

- 10. Market** - rents for Mar 2020 £375 (Mar 2019 £515), year to date £6,006 (2018/19 £6,781).
Market Supervisor's report – 'Market running smoothly as normal until this week. Both traders appeared to trade well'.
It had been agreed to suspend charging rents to the few stalls allowed to attend the market during the Covid-19 lockdown. Future viability of the market needed to be discussed.
- 11. To receive any reports from representatives on outside bodies** – none.
- 12. Parish Matters** (for information only):
Cllr Baverstock – MPC has two heritage plaques (Storm Desmond & The Clough) waiting to be installed – can this not be done now? It was agreed that the overgrown shrubs around the 'Welcome to Milnthorpe' signs would be reduced in height, but this had not yet been done.
Cllr Adair – had noticed an increase in speeding, both locally and nationwide, since the Covid-19-related police suspension of speed watch services. Hoped that the pony field tenancy could be resolved soon (see also 7.1 above).
Cllr Capasso – the Park Road repairs had regrettably would be further delayed by the Covid-19 lockdown. The spring flowers along Parkhouse Way were glorious this year.
Cllr Bingham – was concerned about the market's viability and administration. Also hoped that the pony field tenancy could soon be resolved (see also 7.1 above).
Cllr Hill – congratulated Cllr Hurst on the excellent white lining in The Square; endorsed by all members.
Cllr Hurst – Reported that the proposed VE Day celebrations had been cancelled due to Covid-19. Noted also that the railings between Dallam School and Owlet Ash estate were in need of repainting.
- 13. General correspondence** – none.
- 14. Reading Matter** – none.
- 15. Notice of items to be included on agenda for next meeting, and additional to those referred to above** – none.
- 16. Date of next scheduled meeting** – confirmed as Monday 11 May 2020 at 7.30pm in Milnthorpe Catholic Church Hall – **but subject to Covid-19-related restrictions**. An 'email meeting' based on a pre-issued agenda was more likely.